

Missouri Assessment Program Spring 2005

Social Studies

Released Items

Grade 8

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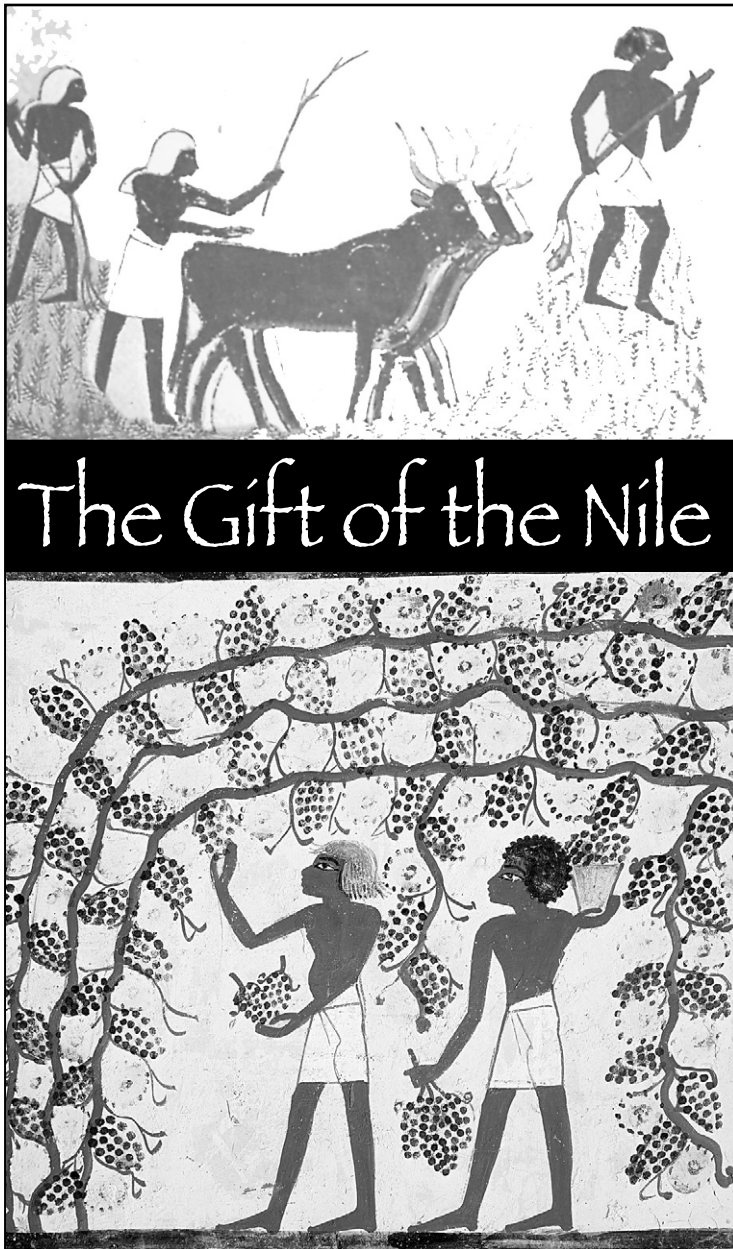
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Directions

Look at the Egyptian tomb paintings and read the paragraph below. Then use your own knowledge and the information to do Numbers 1 through 3.



The Greek historian Herodotus referred to Egypt as “the gift of the Nile.” Annual flooding by the Nile River deposited new, fertile soil on the farmers’ fields. The regularity of this flooding prompted the Egyptians to create a calendar with 365 days. The consistent northward current and southward winds made the river a reliable transportation system. The Nile was a major source of water for washing, for drinking, and for irrigating fields. It also provided reeds and mud for building, and fish for eating.

1 Egypt is called the “gift of the Nile” because the Nile River is

- ☐ the origin of the rain forest
- ☐ a direct route to the silk trade
- ☐ the source of life in the region
- ☐ a waterway that was used by Herodotus

2 The Egyptians made a lasting contribution to mathematics through the creation of

- ☐ the abacus
- ☐ a calendar
- ☐ gunpowder
- ☐ porcelain pottery

3 Identify the two gifts of the Nile that produced the results shown in the paintings.

1. _____
2. _____

Go On ►

Directions

Use your own knowledge and the passage below to do Numbers 17 and 18.

We are called a democracy [because power] is in the hands of the many and not the few. . . . When it is a question of putting one person before another in positions of public responsibility, what counts is not membership of a particular class, but the actual ability which the man possesses. . . . We are prevented from doing wrong by respect . . . for the laws.

—Pericles, a government leader in Athens, Greece, in approximately 450 B.C.

17 Based on the passage, which of these activities would MOST LIKELY have occurred in Athens during the time of Pericles?

- ☐ A king issues an order.
- ☐ A citizen holds public office.
- ☐ The government bans minority opinions.
- ☐ The government imposes a law without legislative approval.

18

Fill in the chart below to provide examples of the way government operates in the United States that are consistent with the statements by Pericles.

Statement by Pericles	Examples of the way government operates in the United States that are consistent with the statements by Pericles
We are called a democracy [because power] is in the hands of the many and not the few.	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
When it is a question of putting one person before another in positions of public responsibility, what counts is not membership of a particular class, but the actual ability which the man possesses.	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

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